

# STELLAR GOOD NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 7

1-800-741-4755

October 2011



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## Stellar Software

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## Medicare Requiring EFT with Enrollment Revalidation

Medicare is now requiring EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) to be used for receiving Medicare payments for new enrollments and revalidations. They have also been sending out notices recently requiring providers to revalidate within 60 days or risk losing their billing privileges (see <http://tinyurl.com/3dq4l7h> and <http://tinyurl.com/3hakskp>). These notices are not even being sent by certified mail (they're going first-class), meaning that you could miss the notice if there's a problem with your address, so you should make sure that Medicare has your correct address information on file (see <http://tinyurl.com/3dq4l7h> for suggestions relating to this).

**If you receive one of these notices, you need to respond immediately, and if you're not already signed up for EFT with Medicare, you will need to submit the EFT authorization agreement** (<http://tinyurl.com/3om2rpk>). If you don't send the EFT authorization, Medicare will stop paying until you do, as recently happened to one of our doctors who didn't realize that Medicare was requiring EFT enrollment when he submitted his revalidation.

## New Medicare ABN Form

The official Medicare ABN (Advance Beneficiary Notice) form has received some minor changes which have been mandated for

use beginning November 1st, 2011. The changes involve the removal of some parenthesis, and some changes to the formatting of the instructions. For more information see the ChiroCode article at <http://tinyurl.com/3vcje66> or the Medicare page at <http://tinyurl.com/3aqw6xe>

## Stellar Updates

Here are some of our recent enhancements and updates to Stellar. (Go to the Help menu in Stellar and click Download Stellar Update to open our webpage with the complete list.)

### Paper & Electronic Claims

Corrected possible incorrect record modification if a record was locked by another user while claims were being run.

### All Documentation Interfaces

Corrected invalid posted service date when importing past services.

Corrected failure to properly calculate service charge when importing multiple units.

### Chiro QuickCharts Interface

Can now pick up more than 4 exported diagnoses (requires settings change in Chiro QuickCharts).

## When Will We Realize That We Have Nothing Left to Lose?

*From DynamicChiropractic.com, by Louis Sportelli, DC*

"When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it" comes from an editorial a friend

of mine, Gerald Celente, wrote as editor of the Trend Alert Journal. Gerald has been a true visionary, predicting many of the unforeseen events we have witnessed in recent years – from the increase in gold prices to the Middle East wars; from gasoline prices to the housing collapse.

He has oftentimes held a strikingly contrasting, contrarian point of view to the TV "pundits and talking heads," as he calls them.

"When people lose everything and have nothing left to lose, they lose it." It seems almost prophetic as we look around the world and see the hostile uprisings and explosion of civil unrest. People feel – whether real or perceived – that they have nothing left to lose, so they lose it.

### Falling on Deaf Ears?

How does this general escalation of unrest relate to our profession? The other day, I received a letter of appeal, as well as an e-mail plea, from the ACA regarding current legislative issues that could turn into a crisis for our profession. The association wanted donations to help "fight for," "defend against," "advocate in favor of" or "champion" some cause that would help the profession in some way. I also received a request from the Foundation for Chiropractic Progress for support to help its ongoing efforts to "gain positive press for chiropractic." I received several other queries from colleges requesting support for an important institutional objective. Appeals from several state and alumni groups soliciting support in helping everything from hurricane victims to legal action can be found in my regular mail or e-mail.

It is generally known that membership in our national and state associations is dwindling. The pleas for membership participation, support and contributions are increasing inversely as the number of members dwindles. The majority of these appeals are indeed valid; yet responsive action does not seem to resonate with the vast majority of the profession, regardless of whether they are current members. An analysis reveals that college affiliation, geography, gender and age also matter little. To all those who do not act, I ask, "Why?"

Why is the profession so divided and fractured? Why do so few feel the need to coalesce around issues that essentially will have an impact on how each of us will practice in the future? Will the profession itself

survive, perish or be forever transformed by external forces as the onerous threats to our mere existence continue to mount in a formidable fashion every day?

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/3huljje>

## A Parent's Horrid Nightmare: Coming Soon to YOUR State?

From Mercola.com, by Dr. Mercola

The state of California has just passed bill AB499, which will permit minor children as young as 12 years old to be vaccinated with sexually transmitted disease vaccines like Gardasil without parental knowledge or parental consent. This means that if you live in California, school or medical personnel would be allowed to vaccinate your child against an STD without your ever knowing it.

At issue, of course, is whether 12-year-olds are mature enough to fully analyze the benefits versus risks of vaccination (or any medical treatment for that matter), or recognize the alternatives to STD prevention, such as abstinence. Meanwhile, a child could suffer a vaccine reaction and the parent, not knowing the child had been vaccinated, could mistake it for the flu or another condition, delaying getting help until it is too late.

But, perhaps the greatest issue of all is whether this law violates your basic right to be involved in important decisions regarding your child's health.

Read the rest at: <http://tinyurl.com/5todb9w>

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